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OCI-1277/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
18 April 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Political Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 12:00 Noon)

1. The city of Hue was reported quiet today, after Thich Tri Quang's speech to some 5,000 Buddhists at a pagoda there this morning. According to the US Embassy, Quang urged the local struggle group to accept the Ky government until elections for a constituent assembly are held. Although an official translation of his speech is not yet available, press reports imply the Quang's arguments in this regard were rather unflattering to the Ky government and the US. The US Consulate in Hue has reported that the struggle group has generally toned down its antigovernment radio commentaries and has also announced that there will be a meeting tonight of struggle group representatives to discuss "important problems."

2. I Corps Commander General Dinh also arrived in Hue where he told local Buddhists today that rumors of the deaths of student agitators elsewhere in Vietnam were untrue. Dinh spoke with Tri Quang and requested him to repeat his speech this morning to Buddhists in Da Nang. According to the press, General Thi also traveled from Da Nang to Hue today.

3. According to US officials, Tri Quang arrived in Da Nang early this afternoon (Vietnam time) and apparently repeated the same speech he gave in Hue this morning. There was no immediate change apparent in the attitude of antigovernment elements in the city. Radio Da Nang continued to stress the alleged arrest and repression of struggle forces by the Ky government and VNQDD (Nationalist) Party elements in Quang Tin, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh

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Approved For Release 2003/04/24 : CIA-RDP79T00826A000600010013-5

provinces; Radio Hue announced today that another group of student "suicide troops" had been sent to assist "persecuted" Buddhists in Quang Tin. Elsewhere in Da Nang today, the struggle group conducted another "alert" drill, claiming that an armed group of infiltrators was attempting to enter the city. Roadblocks were set up and weapons were manned, but by mid-afternoon the alarm was over and the city had returned to normal.

4. The country appeared politically calm elsewhere, except for one small antigovernment demonstration of 200 persons in Da Lat. The press has reported that a meeting of the military Directorate was scheduled today in Saigon to discuss the details of the forthcoming constituent assembly elections. Results of the meeting are as yet unavailable.